

# The Missouri Tree Farm Program

## What is a Tree Farm?

A Tree Farm is forested land being managed for the continuous and sustainable production of multiple products and benefits.

## Who sponsors the Tree Farm Program?

Nationally, the American Tree Farm System is sponsored by the nation's forest industries through the American Forest Foundation and endorsed by a number of public and private organizations. In Missouri the Tree Farm Program is sponsored by the Missouri Forest Products Association and supported by the Missouri Department of Conservation. However, it is the Tree Farmers themselves who set the direction and policy of the Missouri Tree Farm Program through the Missouri State Tree Farm Committee.

## Who is eligible?

Any private woodland owner with 10 or more acres willing to develop and carry out a long-range management plan that meets his or her objectives.

## How much does it cost?

There are no fees or membership dues. The cost is strictly up to the landowners in deciding how much investment they wish to make in their individual operations.

## What are the benefits?

The foremost benefit, of course, will be accomplishment of the goals you set for your woodland. Add to that the following list of benefits Tree Farm participants enjoy:

**1. *Free subscription*** during the first year of the program to *Tree Farmer* magazine. This bi-monthly publication brings you articles on production, taxation, legislation, people in the industry, profitable management tips and marketing updates. After the first year, the publication can be purchased at a nominal cost.

**2. *Free subscription*** (continuously) to *Green Horizons* newsletter. This publication is a quarterly update on Missouri events and people in the forest industry with special emphasis on management and ho-to articles. The newsletter is supported by an alliance of private forest landowner groups in Missouri.

**3. *Free Tree Farm sign*** which designates you and your farm as practicing good forestry.

**4. *Management plan*** which can be a major tool in helping you reach your objectives. Your Tree Farm/Stewardship Plan also will open up opportunities to make you eligible for many federal, state and local cost-share programs which can significantly reduce the cost of practices on your farm. Up to 75 percent of the cost of such practices as tree planting, fish and wildlife habitat development, fencing, agroforestry development and professional forester consultation is available. The management plan serves as a guide in reaching your objectives and as a measure of accomplishment.

**5. *Log market updates and information*** on developing profit potential of other forest resources.

**6. *Annual meetings*** at both the national and state levels. Opportunity to visit with Tree Farmers from around the country at national meetings held in a different state each year. Meet Missouri Tree Farmers at the annual Tree Farm/Stewardship Days held in Columbia, MO each winter.

**7. *Educational events*** such as special seminars on production and taxation, numerous field days, chainsaw safety and logging schools are just a few of the educational opportunities the Tree Farm Program offers in cooperation with other Missouri forest landowner groups.

**8. *Tree Farmer Network*** is always available, as you can call on other to share their experiences.

**9. *Tree Farm participation*** may be of considerable help when establishing "for-profit" motives of your farming operation for income tax purposes.

**10. *Missouri Master Woodland Steward*** is a course of instruction available to Tree Farmers through the state's Forest Stewardship Program and the Missouri Department of Conservation that gives the landowner the training necessary to help others with their forestry interests.

**11. *Recognition*** is a big part of the Tree Farm Program as it strives to tell the story of good forestry. Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year are selected at national, regional, state and local levels each year. Missouri Tree Farmers are recognized at the annual Tree Farm/Stewardship Days in Columbia.

**12. *Satisfaction*** in knowing that you not only have accomplished your goals, but may have helped others achieve theirs.

## How do I begin?

Simple. Just call your local Missouri Department of Conservation forester at:

Forestry Central Office	573/751-4115
Central Region	573/884-6861
Kansas City Region	816/655-6250
Northeast Region	660/785-2420
Northwest Region	816/271-3100
Ozark Region	417/256-7161
Southeast Region	573/290-5730
Southwest Region	417/895-6880
St. Louis Region	636/441-4554

or call the Missouri Tree Farm Program at: **(573) 634-3252**

Ask for a professional forester to visit with you at your farm to determine your and your family's objectives for your farm. Ask the forester to help you develop a management plan that reflects those goals. The Forester will then submit your plan and application for approval and certification. Once certification is final, you will receive a certificate with your special Tree Farm number and the forester will present you with your Tree Farm sign – the sign of good forestry.

## Getting Started in the Missouri Tree Farm Program



The American Tree Farm System is the key to making the best use of your woodlands. To get started, simply fill out this form. There are no fees or obligations. A representative from the Missouri Tree Farm System will contact you.

*Please print or type:*

I own approximately \_\_\_\_\_ acres of woodlands in \_\_\_\_\_ County.

Location of property: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive advice on how to manage my woodlands to qualify for Tree Farm certification. Please make arrangements for an inspecting forester to contact me.

OWNER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Business) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Return this completed form to:**

Missouri Tree Farm System  
c/o Missouri Forest Products Association  
611 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 1  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101-3084  
Fax: 573/636-2591  
Web: [www.moforest.org/treefarmssystem.htm](http://www.moforest.org/treefarmssystem.htm)